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DE RUEHAB #0237 0641454
ZNY CCCCC ZZH (CCY ADX8A6CDD WSC1577-623)
R 051454Z MAR 07
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2668
INFO RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0175

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 000237

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTED TAGS)

SIPDIS

FOR ISN, IO, AND NEA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/05/2017
TAGS: [KNNP](#) [IR](#) [IV](#)
SUBJECT: COTE D'IVOIRE: DEMARCHE ON IRAN

REF: STATE 23001

Classified By: AMBASSADOR AUBREY HOOKS FOR REASONS 1.4 B/D.

[¶1.](#) (C) The Ambassador raised the talking points in reftel with Foreign Minister Bakayoko on March 5. Minister Bakayoko said that his government shared the growing concern about Iran's nuclear program. He stated that Cote d'Ivoire would join a consensus of the international community to sanction Iran, should that be necessary.

[¶2.](#) (C) Minister Bakayoko said that Iran has become an enigma, and that the President of Iran has needlessly sought to provoke the international community, thus raising questions about his judgment and sanity. He cited specifically the recent conference denying the existence of the Holocaust.

[¶3.](#) (C) COMMENT: Minister Bakayoko has personally taken charge of relations with Iran, encouraging cultural and business exchanges. His concern about Iran's provocative behavior represents a change in his approach to that country.
Hooks